

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Workers in additional four counties may receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance if jobs lost because of freeze

SACRAMENTO – Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for workers who lost their jobs because of the January freeze has been expanded to include four more California counties – Kings, Merced, Madera and Stanislaus – in addition to 12 counties originally included in the program.

DUA provides unemployment benefits to workers who have the legal right to work in the United States. Those who were not eligible for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits or who have exhausted those benefits may apply for DUA.

The filing deadline for workers in Kings, Merced, Madera and Stanislaus counties is May 25, 2007. May 25 is also now the new filing deadline for workers in the 12 original counties which include Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura Counties.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides temporary financial benefits to jobless workers and the self-employed when they have lost work as a direct result of a major natural disaster. While DUA is similar to regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) in benefit amounts (up to \$450 per week) and duration (26 weeks), eligibility is somewhat different.

Eligibility for DUA includes persons affected by the disaster who have a legal right to work in the United States; who are or have been self-employed, or who are unable to establish a valid regular UI claim; or individuals who have exhausted their UI claim benefits. It also includes persons unable to reach work because of the disaster; persons scheduled to begin work that was terminated because of the freeze; and persons physically unable to work because of a disaster-incurred injury.

(more)

Self-employed individuals filing DUA claims should be prepared to provide tax returns, business records, affidavits from individuals having knowledge of their business, or any other evidence to verify self-employment.

Persons who advised EDD that they were affected by the freeze and are currently drawing regular Unemployment Insurance benefits will be notified by EDD if their regular benefits are exhausted during the Disaster Unemployment Assistance period and are eligible for DUA.

The fastest and easiest way for those who wish to file a claim and are not already collecting UI benefits is to use the Department's Internet Claim application "eApply4UI" at <https://eapply4ui.edd.ca.gov/>. The application is available in both English and Spanish. Persons with questions about their claim can submit them via the Internet by clicking on the "Contact Us" link at the bottom of any page on EDD's Web site at www.edd.ca.gov or by calling EDD at:

- English: 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish: 1-800-326-8937
- Cantonese: 1-800-547-3506
- Mandarin: 1-866-303-0706
- Vietnamese: 1-800-547-2058
- TTY (non-voice): 1-800-815-9387

The DUA program is funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Labor and at the state level by EDD.

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